

District 4

Larry Phillips

4



Metropolitan King County Council
King County Courthouse, Rm 1200
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104
Tel: 206-296-1004
Fax: 206-296-0370
TTY: 206-296-1024
E-mail: larry.phillips@metrokc.gov
Web: www.metrokc.gov/phillips

Dear Friend,

2006 will be an exciting year for the citizens of King County and their government. Voter-approved redistricting took effect on January 1st, which means you may live in a new county council district.

District 4 has expanded by 60,000 constituents! Our new council district is made up of nearly 200,000 citizens and includes the neighborhoods of Greenwood, Phinney Ridge, Crown Hill, Ballard, Interbay, Magnolia, Queen Anne, Uptown, Eastlake, South Lake Union, Belltown, Denny Triangle, Downtown, and parts of Broadview, Aurora, Fremont, Capitol Hill and First Hill. It's a diverse knit of neighborhoods located in one of Washington State's most diverse counties.

I am honored to serve you and look forward to beginning this new term of office. The Metropolitan King County Council will have much to do as we transition from thirteen members to nine. We have new communities to explore and new constituents to meet. My top priority is to remain ever-vigilant to citizen needs through the many changes.

In 2006, some important issues my colleagues and I will tackle are public health, emergency preparedness, and regional transportation planning. You can read more about these topics below.

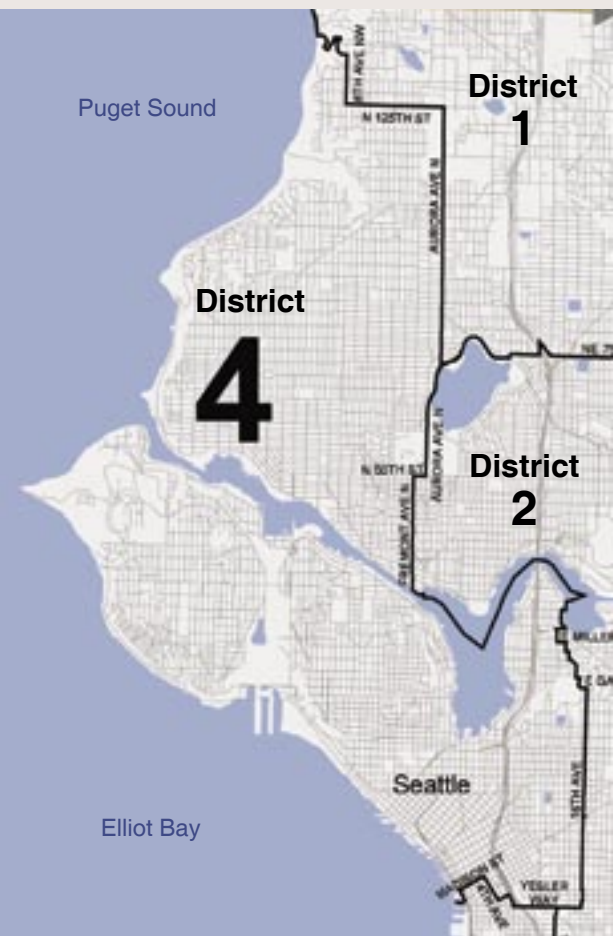
Sincerely,

Providing a public health safety net

The lack of a national health care policy has created a crisis. State and federal Medicaid revenues are not keeping pace with the costs of health care. Meanwhile, the percentage of uninsured adults in King County is at its highest level since 1991—approximately 15 percent of county residents 18 to 64 years old lack health insurance. A growing number of patients come to King County-owned Harborview Medical Center or King County Public Health clinics with little or no health insurance.

King County has a world class medical center which provides quality care to everyone, whether affluent or indigent. However, Harborview's cost of delivering charity care nearly doubled between 2003 and 2004, and this trend is not sustainable.

In 2006, King County implemented a short-term solution to providing care for the growing numbers of people in need. We increased our public health spending by 33% in order to maintain current levels of public health service. In the long term, we will continue our work to develop a Public Health Operational Master Plan that will provide a financially sustainable future for King County citizens' healthcare amid the growing national health care crisis.



For more information,
visit our website:
www.metrokc.gov/phillips





Councilmember Phillips celebrates a milestone in building Seattle's light rail line by helping tie down the first rail of Central Link.

Gearing up for Sound Transit 2

What would you like to see the Central Puget Sound Region's transportation network look like in the next 15 to 20 years? My Sound Transit colleagues and I are currently taking public input for Sound Transit 2 (ST2), the next phase of regional transportation investments that will go before voters, possibly in the fall of 2006.

Since 1997, Sound Transit has been building a network of regional buses, commuter rail, light rail, and supporting capital facilities like park and ride lots, transit centers, and direct access ramps. To date, Sound Transit has moved 45.8 million people! After some early setbacks, construction on Central Link Light Rail connecting Seattle to Sea-Tac Airport is underway and proceeding on-time and under-budget. The line will open in 2009. In early 2006, the Sound Transit Board will be considering a financial plan for extending light rail to the University of Washington with existing revenues.

But this work may be just the beginning of bringing multi-model transportation choices to Seattle and the region. What would you like to see next? Light rail to Northgate? A streetcar on First Hill? Light rail to Bellevue? Visit www.soundtransit.org to tell us what you think.

County wins awards for emergency preparedness

King County faces a wide range of potential threats, from pandemic flu to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. As the government responsible for managing the regional response to any catastrophic emergency, King County must be prepared.

King County's Regional Disaster Plan was recognized for excellence by the Congressional 9-11 Commission in 2003 and the National Association of Counties in 2004. To date, King County has accomplished the following:

- Established an 800Mhz radio system to ensure open lines for emergency communication.
- Constructed a Regional Communications and Emergency Coordination Center.
- Performed seismic retrofits of the King County Courthouse and Harborview Medical Center (in progress).
- Supported various regional planning efforts, regional administration of Homeland Security grants, regional mutual aid agreements, and adopted the National Incident Management System.
- Funded development of a pandemic flu public outreach and information plan and the purchase of antiviral medication for high-risk individuals and first responders.

It's also important for every citizen to be personally prepared. If you have not done so already, I suggest that you make a personal disaster plan. You can find information on how to develop your plan at www.metrokc.gov/prepare/preparerespond/prepared.aspx.

www.metrokc.gov/prepare

King County Councilmember
District 4

Larry Phillips



Tel: 206-296-1004
Fax: 206-296-0370
TTY: 206-296-1024
E-mail: larry.phillips@metrokc.gov
Web: www.metrokc.gov/phillips

Metropolitan King County Council
King County Courthouse, Rm 1200
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

PRSRT STD
US Postage
PAID
Seattle, WA
Permit No. 1788